

Amendments to the Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

establishing [[an]] accounting sessions between each respective accounting client of a plurality of accounting clients and allocating a[[n]] common accounting session identifier to each of the accounting sessions based on a received request to establish an accounting session between an accounting server and at least one accounting client, wherein the accounting sessions are configured to generate costs to be charged against prepaid credit during a call after ascertaining whether any costs generated by the at least one plurality of accounting clients in a network, which are associated with a request to establish the call between a first terminal and a second terminal, are to be charged against the prepaid credit;

receiving, at the accounting server, charging update data from each of the plurality of accounting clients during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier and tariff update data; and

collating charging update data from each of the accounting clients in the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier and the received charging update data at the accounting server received from the at least one accounting client during the call established between the first and second terminals, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data received during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the accounting server is located in a home network of the first terminal.

4. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, wherein each accounting client ~~takes the form of~~ comprises one of the following network entities:

service general packet radio service support node/gateway general packet radio

service support node;

serving call service control function/proxy call service control function; or
a network application server.

5. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the accounting session identifier is allocated upon receipt in the network of the request for establishment of a call from the first terminal.

6. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the request for establishment of a call is made via a session initiation protocol message sent from the first terminal.

7. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the charging update data is sent from the accounting clients to the accounting server via a diameter protocol message.

8. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 7, wherein the charging update data is received from each accounting client to the accounting server in response to a diameter protocol update request issued by the accounting server.

9. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 8, wherein the accounting server is configured to issue[[s]] the update requests to each accounting client periodically.

10. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, further comprising, in response to receiving a request to ascertain whether costs are to be charged against prepaid credit the method, looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call.

11. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 1, wherein the network comprises an internet protocol network.

12. (Previously Presented) A method according to claim 11, wherein the

network comprises a universal mobile telecommunications system network.

13-25 (Cancelled)

26. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor configured to cause the apparatus to at least:

establish [[an]] accounting sessions between each respective accounting client of a plurality of accounting clients and to allocate a[[n]] common accounting session identifier to each of the accounting sessions based on a received request to establish [[the]] an accounting session with at least one accounting client, wherein the accounting sessions are configured to generate costs to be charged against prepaid credit during a call after ascertaining whether any costs [[are]] generated by the at least one plurality of accounting clients in a network, which are associated with a request to establish the call between a first terminal and a second terminal, [[and]] are to be charged against the prepaid credit;

receive charging update data from each of the plurality of accounting clients during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier and tariff update data; [[,]] and

collate charging update data from each of the accounting clients based on the accounting session identifier and the received charging update data, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call. received from the at least one accounting client during the call established between the first and second terminals to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data received during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

27. (Currently amended) An apparatus, comprising:

a processor configured to cause the apparatus to at least:

establish an accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier based on a request to establish an accounting session with an accounting server configured to generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit associated with a request to establish a call between a first and second terminal, wherein the accounting

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session identifier comprises a common accounting session identifier allocated to a plurality of accounting sessions established between the accounting server and a plurality of accounting clients, and

~~direct cause sending of~~ charging update data to be sent to the accounting server during the call established between the first and second terminals for collation by the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data sent during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

28. (Canceled).

29. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein each accounting client comprises ~~takes the form of~~ one of the following network entities:

service general packet radio service support node/gateway general packet radio service support node;

serving call service control function/proxy call service control function; or
a network application server.

30. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the accounting session identifier is configured to be allocated upon receipt of the request for establishment of a call from the first terminal.

31. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the request for establishment of a call is made via a session initiation protocol message.

32. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the charging update data is received from the accounting clients ~~at an accounting server~~ via a diameter protocol message.

33. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 32, wherein the charging update data is received from each accounting client ~~to the accounting server~~ in response to an issued diameter protocol update request ~~issued by the accounting server~~.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 33, wherein the processor is configured to cause the apparatus to issue accounting server issues the update requests to each accounting client periodically.

35. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 26, wherein the processor is further configured to cause the apparatus to ascertain whether costs are to be charged against prepaid credit by looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call.

36. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the accounting server is located in a home network of a first terminal for the call.

37. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the accounting session identifier is configured to be allocated upon receipt of the request for establishment of a call.

38. (Previously Presented) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the request for establishment of a call is made via a session initiation protocol message sent from a first terminal.

39. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the processor is configured to cause the apparatus to send cause the charging update data to be sent ~~by sending the charging update data to the accounting server~~ via a diameter protocol message.

40. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 39, wherein the processor is configured to cause the apparatus to send cause the charging update data to be sent ~~by sending the charging update data to the accounting server~~ in response to a diameter protocol update request issued by the accounting server.

41. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 40, wherein the accounting server is configured to issue the update requests periodically.

42. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 27, wherein the accounting server apparatus is configured to ascertain whether costs are to be charged against prepaid credit by looking up subscriber profile data upon receipt of the request for establishment of the call.

43. (Canceled).

44. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
establishing means for establishing [[an]] accounting sessions between each respective accounting client of a plurality of accounting clients and for allocating a a[[n]] common accounting session identifier to each of the accounting sessions based on receiving a received request to establish an accounting session with at least one accounting client, wherein the accounting sessions are configured to generate costs to be charged against prepaid credit during a call after ascertaining whether any costs are generated by the at least one plurality of accounting clients in a network, which are associated with a request for establishing the call between a first terminal and a second terminal, are to be charged against the prepaid credit;

means for receiving charging update data from each of the plurality of accounting clients during the call, the charging update data including the accounting session identifier and tariff update data; and

collating means for collating charging update data from each of the accounting clients based on the accounting session identifier and the received charging update data, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call. received from the at least one accounting client during the call established between the first and second terminals, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data received during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

45. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:
establishing means for establishing [[,]] an accounting session being allocated an

accounting session identifier based on a received request to establish an accounting session with an accounting server configured to generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit associated with a request for establishing a call between a first and second terminal, wherein the accounting session identifier comprises a common accounting session identifier allocated to a plurality of accounting sessions established between the accounting server and a plurality of accounting clients; and

~~sending~~—means for ~~sending~~ causing charging update data to be sent to the accounting server during the call established between the first and second terminals for collation by the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, thereby enabling updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data sent during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

46. (Canceled).

47. (Currently Amended) A method, comprising:

establishing an accounting session being allocated an accounting session identifier based on receiving a request to establish an accounting session with an accounting server configured to generate the costs to be charged against prepaid credit associated with a request to establish a call between a first and second terminal, wherein the accounting session identifier comprises a common accounting session identifier allocated to a plurality of accounting sessions established between the accounting server and a plurality of accounting clients; and

~~sending~~ causing charging update data to be sent to the accounting server during the call established between the first and second terminals for collation by the accounting server based on the accounting session identifier, to enable updating of the prepaid credit during the call, wherein the charging update data sent during the call includes the accounting session identifier and tariff update data.

48. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 1, further comprising, in response to receiving the request to ascertain, ~~transmitting~~ causing transmission of a

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response including an indication that costs generated by accounting clients in a network associated with a request to establish a call between a first and second terminal are to be charged against prepaid credit.

49. (Currently Amended) An apparatus according to claim 26 wherein the processor is further configured to cause the apparatus to cause transmission of ~~comprises a transmitter configured to transmit~~ a response including an indication that costs generated by accounting clients in a network associated with a request to establish a call between a first and second terminal are to be charged against prepaid credit in response to the request to ascertain.

50. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A method according to claim 47, wherein the accounting session identifier is configured to be allocated upon receipt of the request for establishment of a call.

51. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A method according to claim 47, wherein update requests are received from the accounting server periodically.

52. (Currently Amended) ~~An apparatus~~ A method according to claim 47, wherein the charging update data is sent to the accounting server via a diameter protocol message.

53-54. (Canceled)